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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments prior to the calculation of filing fees:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Listing of the Claims, reflecting current amendments, begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.